

Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GREEKS AND TURKS PROBE THE WATERS

FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS ON AUGUST 30 SUMMARIZED FOR AMBAS-
SADOR KUBISCH THE GREEK AND TURKISH POSITIONS ON THE SEPTEM-
BER 10-14 GENEVA TALKS:

--THE GREEKS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WHILE
THE SISMIC IS STILL OPERATING IN THE AEGEAN.

--TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL AGREED TO LOOK
INTO CURTAILING THE SISMIC'S PROGRAM BY SEPTEMBER 10,
BUT CONSIDERED BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS UNWARRANTED
WHILE THE GREEKS PERSIST IN PRESENTING THEIR CASE TO
THE ICJ.

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--THOUGH UNWILLING TO "WITHDRAW" THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE ICJ, THE GREEKS WOULD CONSIDER ASKING THE COURT TO SET THE MATTER ASIDE TEMPORARILY, PENDING THE OUT-COME OF THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS.

BITSIOS ADDED THAT, IF THE SISMIK CONTINUED ITS OPERATIONS PAST SEPTEMBER 10, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH CAGLAY-ANGIL AT THE UNGA LATER IN SEPTEMBER PROVIDED THAT THE SHIP RETURNED TO PORT. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 9136 (LIMDIS), 8/30.)

2. FRANCE: WHERE "ATLANTICISM" IS BECOMING A DIRTY WORD

IN FRANCE, "ATLANTICISM" HAS BECOME A POLITICALLY DENIGRATING EPITHET USED BY THOSE WHO PERCEIVE A THREAT TO THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC. EMBASSY PARIS NOTES:

--THE TERM IS MOST COMMONLY USED BY THE COMMUNISTS, GAULLISTS AND LEFT-WING SOCIALISTS.

--THE MOST PRO-ATLANTIC GROUPS ARE THE HALF-DOZEN PARTIES OF THE CENTER.

THE EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE TERM OFTEN EXTENDS TO THE GERMANS, WHOSE GROWING POWER IS VIEWED BY MANY FRENCHMEN AS WORKING FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE US AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF FRANCE--AND EUROPE. GISCARD, WHO HAS BEEN ATTACKED FOR HIS ALLEGED CAPITULATION TO US INTERESTS AT RAMBOUILLET, MARTINIQUE AND PUERTO RICO, FINDS HIMSELF IN AN AWKWARD POSITION:

--GOOD RELATIONS WITH GERMANY AND THE US ARE BRINGING DIRECT DIVIDENDS TO FRANCE IN MANY SPHERES.

--"ATLANTICISM," HOWEVER, REMAINS SUCH A TOUCHY ISSUE DOMESTICALLY THAT THE PRESIDENT IS OBLIGED TO KEEP HIS SUPPOSED SYMPATHIES ON THIS SCORE IN LOW PROFILE. (SECRET) PARIS 25047, 8/27.)

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3. THE NETHERLANDS: PARLIAMENT HELPS BERNHARD OFF THE HOOK

AS EXPECTED, THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 30 OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSED BRINGING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST PRINCE BERNHARD. EMBASSY THE HAGUE REPORTS THAT FEW DUTCH POLITICAL LEADERS ARE LOOKING FOR BLOOD. THE GENERAL MOOD IS ONE OF APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DONNER COMMIS-

SION, SYMPATHY FOR THE QUEEN, AND A RESOLVE TO CARRY ON IN THE FACE OF AN INCALCULABLE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE COUNTRY. (CONFIDENTIAL) THE HAGUE 4695, 8/30.)

4. KUWAIT: A STITCH IN TIME

THE SUDDEN END TO KUWAIT'S "DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT" RESULTED PRIMARILY FROM THE RULING SABAH FAMILY'S CONCERN OVER INTERNAL SECURITY AND STABILITY. IN THE VIEW OF EMBASSY KUWAIT, SEVERAL FACTORS INFLUENCED THE DECISION:

--WITH 250,000 PALESTINIANS IN THE COUNTRY, KUWAIT COULD BECOME THE NEXT BATTLEGROUND FOR THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT.

--THE INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL ROLE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UPSET THE TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP.

--THE SAUDIS, LONG CRITICAL OF THE "DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT," HAVE HAD GREATER INFLUENCE SINCE KUWAIT BEGAN COOPERATING IN VARIOUS LEBANESE MEDIATION EFFORTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THOUGH UNREMARKABLE IN THE ARAB CONTEXT, THE SUSPENSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF WHICH THE KUWAITIS WERE SO PROUD REFLECTS THE SABAH LEADERSHIP'S REAL ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE. THE ACTION IS NOT A RESPONSE TO AN ALREADY CRITICAL SITUATION, BUT RATHER A PREVENTIVE MEASURE TO AVOID FUTURE CALAMITY. (SECRET) KUWAIT 4139, 8/30.)

5. ARGENTINA: INCREASING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS SECRET

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SUCCESSFULLY CURBED LEFTIST SUBVERSION, COUNTERTERRORISM AND POLICE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE GROWN. THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS STEMS NOT FROM GOA POLICY BUT FROM THE SECURITY FORCES' TAKING ADVANTAGE OF:

--DIVISIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT;

--UNCLEAR POLICY GUIDELINES;

--FUZZY LINES OF COMMAND; AND

--THE GOVERNMENT'S DEPENDENCE ON THEM TO COMBAT THE CONTINUED THREAT OF SUBVERSION.

POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND LABOR LEADERS REMAIN WILLING TO

GIVE VIDELA THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, IN PART BECAUSE THEY
FEAR THAT THE MODERATES MAY BE REPLACED BY HARDLINERS.

HOWEVER, UNTIL THERE ARE CLEAR GUIDELINES AND CLEAR LINES
OF COMMAND FROM A STRONG CENTRAL AUTHORITY CAPABLE OF EN-
FORCING ITS ORDERS, EXCESSES ON THE PART OF THE SECURITY
FORCES ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED.

(SECRET) BUENOS AIRES 5637, 8/30.) KISSINGER

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